

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## "Faya bo Hanja"

### Police announce strict fines for DUI's and other misbehavior during Carnival



Carnival Safety and Security Committee

ORANJESTAD -- The first big carnival event inaugurating the season is coming up this Saturday evening, January 6, with advent of the Torch Parade. A committee comprised of representatives from the police department, social services, ambulance fleet and Red Cross welcomed media to Police Headquarters in Macuarima to discuss the safety and security of carnival participants and spectators over the next two months.

During that time, there will be dozens of events, parades, pageants, and festive parties called "jump ups," and it is expected, experience has demonstrated, for there to be an overindulgence in alcohol, often leading to offensive behavior to all those trying to enjoy the carnival events.

For the past two years, the police have initiated strong measures to reduce offensive actions and to discourage foolish actions while under the influence. The policy, locally referred to as "Faya bo Haya," in Papiamentu, loosely translates to "Fail and be Nailed." This is exactly the situation in which offenders will find themselves, as detailed by Police Commissioner Trudy Hassell, with a new and steep system of fines recently approved by the Prosecutor's Office.

Individuals and groups who are in violation of a number of penal codes, Articles 190, 191, 192, 35, or 147, will be issued a single warning by police officers to modify their behavior and conform to the law. If they continue their offensive actions, they will be jailed and face stiff fines.

Spectators are reminded they are to stay off the streets and behind barriers during parades. Only individuals with special passes, such as news media and participants, are permitted on the parade

grounds. If refusing to comply when police order them off the street, offenders will face fines. Those behaving in a disorderly fashion will also be warned a single time to cease and desist.

If not only refusing to comply, but offenders are disrespectful of police authority, particularly with profanity or profane gestures, they will face additional fines. All offenders will face temporary confinement until the fines are paid. A dedicated swipe system for debit and credit cards has been set up at the police station in Oranjestad for this purpose. Fines range from 300 to 750 Aruban florins, depending on the degree of the offense.

Heavy fines will also be enforced for driving under the influence. Police officers will be carrying portable breathalyzer kits and testing drivers, including those steering vehicles in the parade, frequently. Depending on the blood alcohol content, fines can be anywhere from 400 to 850 Aruban florins for registering in the range from .50 to 1.30. Those with higher alcohol/blood content will face even higher fines and prison sentences of at least four months, if the Prosecutor's Office feels it is warranted.

Continued on pg 2

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### NJ Gov Christie sacks top aide as 'Bridgegate' roils US politics



NJ Gov. Christie

NEW YORK (AFP) - Governor Chris Christie's US presidential ambitions ran into a jam on Thursday, when he was forced to admit his staff had lied to him about their role in blocking commuter traffic on a major bridge.

The New Jersey leader, a larger-than-life Republican widely seen as a frontrunner for his party's 2016 presidential

nomination, said he had been "embarrassed and humiliated" by the alleged dirty tricks.

In news conference that lasted almost two hours, Christie repeatedly apologized for his office's connection to the shutting down of local feeder lanes on the George Washington Bridge in September.

The lane closures caused massive traffic disruption for four days in the New Jersey town of Fort Lee, allegedly to punish the local mayor, who failed to endorse Christie's successful re-election bid.

Christie insisted he had been unaware of any political motive behind the lane closures until the release of emails from his aides on Wednesday, and moved quickly to sack a senior assistant.

Cont. on pg 6

#### GENERATION Z...

By: René C.W. Boender  
Brain-agent & author  
"Great to Coo" I & "Cool is Hot"

Second Instalment in a  
the series (see pg 3)



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## Minister of Social Affairs, Youth & Labor, Paul Croes, presents his vision for 2014

The elections at the end of September of 2013 resulted in a second majority for the AVP party, allowing them to continue their policies and projects over the next four years. While organizing his new government and Cabinet, however, Prime Minister Mike Eman and his colleagues saw a need for reshuffling of responsibilities and the creation of ministries that would focus on particular interests.

One of these changes was appointing Paul Croes, then President of Parliament, as Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, with the addition of a new realm of responsibility, targeting youth.

The Minister of Social Affairs, Youth & Labor welcomed media to Government House on Wednesday morning, January 8, to impart the mission and vision for the three ministries, and how their goals and interests coincide.

Minister Croes explained that much of this is acting on studies and continuing the aims of the previous four years, conducted and laid out for these ministries. The creation of the ministry dedicated to island youth, however, in his belief and that of the administration, is an integral element to the success of his other realms of authority.

During the previous administration, a UNICEF study on the status of island children was conducted. Funding was increased for educational fees, assistance and benefits for the disabled. There were also important changes in the labor laws.

The principal concerns of the three ministries are social justice, prosperity and soli-



Minister of Social Affairs, Youth & Labor, Paul Croes, presents his vision for 2014

darity of the community, stability and participation in the Labor Market, and most importantly, raising a "Generation of Leaders," by encouraging the next generation to continue their education for as long as possible and developing their work skills.

New institutions have been established to inspire island youth. Famous young islanders, such as Sarah Quita-Offringa, the PWA Women's Windsurfing World Champion Freestyle since age 17, and Xander Bogaerts, the rookie baseball player that was part of the Boston Red Sox World Series win this year, are examples to young Arubans of what they can be, combined with talent, determination and tenacity. Awards were presented to dozens of such talented youth in October, coupled with the creation of and distribution to all students of a free school agenda showcasing their accomplishments in the world arena.

Minister Croes cited the development of a fund that will be dedicated to programs for island youth to develop their talents, in sports, the

arts, and academia. Part of the program is to also stimulate a desire for volunteer work and community involvement. It is the firm belief of the administration that the latter is essential to the

continued development and advancement of Aruba. There are various international organizations which provides grants for such projects, and every avenue will be explored and pursued.

Today's teenagers will be tomorrow's Labor Market, and the Ministry of Labor is looking toward the conditions that will "guarantee an equilibrium between the interests of the workers and employers." It is also their goal to provide supplemental education and motivation to workers, so they may hone their skills and elevate the quality of performance. Such programs also make them eligible for more important positions and augmented wages.

The minister asserts a definitive synergy between the three areas exists, and is a

vital part of his administration's vision. The participation of youth, present and future, in the Labor Market, in volunteer work in the community, and as the entrepreneurs of the future, are priorities in the planning of programs and allotment of funding.

Finally, in closing, Minister Croes quoted Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the president of Brazil from 1995 to 2003, and a professor of sociology. He said "Democracy is not just a question of having a vote. It consists of strengthening each citizen's possibility and capacity to participate in the deliberations involved in the life in society."

By Rosalie Klein

## Faya bo Hanja...

Cont. from pg 1

Fines can be as high as 1400 Aruban florins, and seriously inebriated offenders could face a year of jail time.

A number of other points are the concern of the agencies involved to ensure the safety and health of all participants and spectators during the parades.

Excessive consumption of alcohol combined with sitting hours in the tropical heat can produce a number of negative conditions.

Red Cross personnel will be standing by, and with the ambulance service will have four stations along the parade routes. They ask the public please respect when they are attempting to attend to a person in distress and make way for their vehicles.

PC Hassel also mention that throwing bottles, leaving broken glass along the route, will be policed and penalized, as will doing damage to parked cars or other property. Individuals should refrain from making a spectacle during the events, particularly as families and children are present, and should behave accordingly, with proper decorum.

Carnival groups were reminded that the police will be stretched thin during carnival events, and they have an entire island to police, aside from the parades. It is recommended carnival groups have their own security personnel, at least two per one hundred participants. They are also asked to keep those in the pa-

rade from dancing along side the trailers with the bands and floats, which can be quite dangerous, but confine their people to areas in front and back of the moving vehicles, with a healthy safety margin.

In closing, the agencies working to insure that carnival is an enjoyable and safe experience for all remind the public that it is a community effort to see this comes to pass, not only the responsibility of the police and their partners. All those who will be attending or participating in carnival are asked to monitor their alcohol consumption, behave respectfully, and be considerate of others.

By Rosalie Klein





## PLINKO YOUR WAY TO CASH & TROP FREE PLAY! EARN & ENTER STARTING JANUARY 1

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# GENERATION Z; The unstoppable rise of a digital generation

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## Generation Z

We now look at Generation Z. Everyone born between 1992 and 2010 is considered part of this generation. While experts have not been able to fully agree on the exact years, for the sake of this paper we will use 1992 - 2010 as our parameter. The overlap with Generation Y is acceptable. In 2020, which is the year that we are looking ahead to, this group will range in age from 10 to 28 years old. In other words, the first members of this generation will have already entered the workforce.

Various names have been assigned to Generation Z, too. "Digital Natives" is the most widely used and influential. Marc Prensky (2001) coined the term. Prensky states that this generation was born in an era in which the extreme presence of digital technology is the norm. Unlike the previous generations, all of whom grew up in an age when the use of digital technologies was still something one had to learn by varying degrees. Prensky calls these older generations "Digital Immigrants." In other words, this is a case of immigrants versus natives.

Generation Z is growing up in a world of excess and with very few restrictions. Generation Z assumes that parents or government will step in to offset any potential setbacks. This assumption is regularly confirmed. For ex-

René C.W. Boender Brain-agent & author "Great to Cool & Cool is Hot"



René Boender

ample, despite the recession in the past years, young people's average income increased by 7% during 2007 and 2009. Generation Z accordingly continues to have complete faith in the future.

Of course it is risky to generalize, but within this context we can allow ourselves to outline the situation. Generally speaking, we can say that Generation Z is a generation being raised in a "24/7" information society. An oft-made claim is that this generation is characterized by a short attention span. They grow bored quickly and channel hop through life. As a result, they are also able to find and filter information rapidly. In some cases, the information is processed on a purely superficial level.

These digital natives are the focus of this paper. After we briefly present a number of key figures and general trends, we will use 12 statements to shed insight into how this generation's view of life and how this translates in the workplace. We will conclude with a number of concrete recommendations.

Generation Z has already been born. They are moving towards the future. From 2020 onwards they will exercise their social influence. These are our children and our children's children. Personally speaking, we already know quite a bit about them; we even know them by name. But can we paint a bigger picture?

### A few statistics

According to Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the Dutch population in 2010 includes approximately 3,721,000 residents between the ages of 0 and 18. Generation Z. They represent 22.5% of the total population of 16.5 million people in the Netherlands.

Incidentally, approximately one-quarter of these children have ethnic roots that lie outside the Netherlands. The number of "non-indigenous" children is not expected to rise. However, a relative increase is predicted for future generations (due to lower birth rates among "indigenous" Dutch). Today, approximately 20% of the total population is classified as ethnic minorities.

Right now, the oldest members of Generation Z are 18 years old, which makes it

difficult to determine the level of education and branches of study we can expect to see when they begin to enter the workplace. We do know that two-thirds of primary school children went on to pursue preparatory secondary vocational education (VMBO) in the early 1990s. In the meantime, this share has dropped to only around half. Senior secondary education (HAVO) and pre-university education (VWO) are rapidly gaining in popularity. Despite complaints that the quality of senior secondary education has declined, we can still say that on average children are leaving school better educated.

On account of various age factors it is difficult to determine whether Generation Z has already begun to display different media and communication behaviour compared to previous generations, especially Generation Y. A striking

detail in the available data is how television is losing its appeal while gaming is clearly a favourite pastime. "Casual gaming" in particular is popular. These are relatively simple and basic games that can be played online. Sites such as [www.spele.nl](http://www.spele.nl) offer hundreds of these types of games. Casual gaming is especially popular amongst the younger groups. Consequently, one-quarter of the pre-schoolers are already online at least once a week.

When we take a closer look at Generation Z's current online activity, one thing stands out in particular: Internet mainly seems to serve a social role for this group. Hyves and MSN still rule the Internet for this group, but other social sites including Facebook, Partypeeps2000, Sugababes and Partyflock are extremely popular, too.

Continued on pg 5



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## UPS with a special delivery! TOB Carnival group crowns its beauty queens for Carnaval 60



Recently TOB Carnival group crowned two of their Carnival princesses. The coronation took place at Moomba Beach and turned out to be a very festive event for the little ones who was introduced to the public in a very creative and unique manner. Miguel Genser and Melvin Garcia crowned TOB's little princess Kiziah Rasden. Her grand entrance was accompanied



by lots noise and lighted-up trucks of 'Jeans Towing.' A UPS box was also delivered at Moomba where TOB's Children's Queen Jeanylaine Boekhoudt surprised everyone by popping out. Alberto Groeneveldt and Astro Deevah did the honors crowning the Children's Queen. TOB's fans were present to show their support and everyone enjoyed and danced away on the tunes of the Failures.



### Carnaval Schedule

Fri. Jan 10: Show di Rey Momo (Momo King Show) (uncensored jokes)  
Sat. Jan 11: 8:00 p.m. Aruba's Torch Parade  
Sun. Jan 12: 6:30 p.m. Aruba's Children, Youth and Prince and Pancho Election. (all three categories)

### Line - Up Torch Parade

1. Royal Carnival Group
2. Majestic Group
3. T.O.B. Group
4. Champagne Group
5. META Soc. Club
6. Dushi .C. Group
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## Stacy & Michael Krooks honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



Recently, Stacy & Michael Krooks from New Jersey were honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill after returning to Aruba for 28 years consecutive years. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutive. Mr. Ricardo Croes representing Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony at the Marriott Ocean Club. Mrs. Stacy commented that she will never change her vacation island for any other island. Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were they consider Aruba to be the "Happy Island", the great weather, and Friendly Aruban Hospitality, white sand beaches and the local food. On the pictures Mr. Croes from ATA together with Stacy & Michael and hotel Reps. Erwin & Lisette at the Marriott Ocean Club.

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Fillet Mignon 6 oz (Angus) US\$ 18.30 AFIs. 32.00  
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(Rice, coleslaw, french fries, fried plantain)



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## New York Comedy Stars to Perform at the Westin Resort Live Standup Comedy on Aruba

**"Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" to feature amazing NYC talent from feature films and television shows January 14th to January 29th**

PALM BEACH - After rave reviews and packed crowds, some of the nestcomedians from New York return to the stage at the Westin Resort and Casino in the High Rise Area every night from Tuesday January 14th to Wednesday January 29th.

The shows will start at 9pm. Doors will open at 8pm. And as a bonus, each comedy ticket will be worth \$40 in Free Slot Play at the Palm Beach Westin Casino.

"Aruba Ray's Comedy Show" is hosted by comedian Ray Ellin. The ninety-minute event will feature Ellin and fellow comedians Brian Scott McFadden, Ted Alexandro, Chuck Nice, and Lenny Marcus.

McFadden and Alexandro will appear with Ellin the 14th - 20th, and Nice and Marcus join Ellin the 21st - 29th.

"Each of these comedians are truly excellent, and I'm thrilled to bring them to Aruba, which I love. I first came two years ago, and have returned every month since. It's an amazing island," said Ellin. "We always have incredible audiences when we perform here, and a fantastic time at the Westin."

Ray Ellin is an accomplished performer, having ap-

peared on numerous television programs including those on Comedy Central, NBC, ABC, and CBS, and is the host of the new "Gong Show Live," a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He was the host of the popular talk show "Late Net," and hosted the television shows "The Movie Loft," "Brain Fuel," and "New York Now." He also produced and directed the very successful film "The Latin Legends of Comedy."

Brian Scott McFadden was recently on "The David Letterman Show" and the "Craig Ferguson Show," and is in the smash hit Ben Stiller movie "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," one of the biggest films of the year.

Ted Alexandro has performed all over the world. He has appeared on "The David Letterman Show," "The Conan O'Brien Show," "The Jimmy Kimmel Show," "The View," and has done two Comedy Central specials. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall.

Chuck Nice is a New York radio star and recognizable face; he has been on countless television shows, from VH1's "Best Week Ever" to NBC's "Today Show" to Tru TV's "World's Dumbest" to

ABC's "The View" to his own show on HGTV.

Lenny Marcus has appeared on "The David Letterman Show," Comedy Central, MTV, and at the prestigious Montreal Comedy Festival and the HBO Comedy Festival.

All five comics perform regularly in New York City's biggest venues.

Tickets for the shows can be purchased at the Westin Hotel lobby. Prices are \$39 per ticket.

Guests at hotels can also ask their concierge to call the Westin, but it is suggested to purchase tickets in advance.

There will be dinner packages available.

Each comedy ticket is good for \$40 in Free Slot Play at the Palm Beach Westin Casino, which means that each comedy ticket actually ends up costing nothing - it provides each audience member with a profit!

Seating is first come first serve.

The shows are intended for an adult audience.

There is NO drink minimum. A full bar and food menu will be available. For more information call the Westin Resort and Casino at 011-297-586-4466

## DPL introduces new forms and now also in the Papiamento language

ORANJESTAD -- After a year of many challenges and positive developments, the Department of Labor Progress, better known as DPL, opened 2014 with changes in their official forms. These are the forms that are used by employers when they are in search of an employee, or when they have to make a petition for advice regarding a work permit.

To be able to offer better service and to work more efficiently, they evaluated all their forms and decided to make them as specific as possible. The Department of Labor Market Registration better known as Manpower Planning, that was also using a form will not be resorting under DPL anymore; their form have now been brought under DPL's jurisdiction, specifically under Directie Arbeid en Onderzoek. )



(Labor and Investigation Dept.)

DPL forms have been changed, they have divided the traditional form for Job Vacancies into three specific categories, which define Definite Time, Indefinite Time and Domestic Employee. They have also introduced

three forms in Papiamento to facilitate those who make use of these frequently. Other forms, such as those for Work Permits will also have changes and be presented in Papiamento.

It is important to note that all DPL forms are obtainable on their website and may be downloaded freely via their website: [www.dpl.aw](http://www.dpl.aw). Or, these can be picked up at the DPL office in Seroe Blanco 4. DPL will not be accepting any 2013 forms in view of the changes that have been made for 2014.

DPL wants to remind all employers that they can submit a job vacancy form at Jobcenter by appointment only. DPL also offers the service of assisting persons who need help to fill out these forms correctly. This service is completely free of charge.

### Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



**Appetizers:** Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

**Entrees:** Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

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## GENERATION Z...

Cont. from pg 3

Interestingly enough, a variety of new social media such as twitter and foursquare has not caught on (yet). Nevertheless, we agree with Seth Godin, who said: "an entire generation or two is ready to grow up in public."

The mobile telephone is omnipresent. Today, 80% of the children ages 12 - 14 have a mobile phone. We can safely say that everyone in the 15+ group has a mobile. Still, phone use is still fairly traditional: these mobiles are mainly used for phoning and texting. However, according to findings from recent national studies, this could very well be about to change. Young people are increasingly classifying SMS as an outdated technology. The rapid influx of smartphones has provided cheaper alternatives. Ping (for Blackberry or "BB") and WhatsApp (for other smartphones) are "free of charge" and consequently are rapidly winning over users. We can expect to see mobile Internet quickly assume a prominent position thanks to the influence of these applications. Some are already claiming that "fixed Internet" is on the way out.

Telephones that are configured to accommodate mobile Internet now have a market share of about 40%, with significant overrepresentation in the business segment. This will change at an accelerated pace in years to come (or should we say "months").

A common claim is that the time kids spend in front of the computer, the game console, the television and on the phone has all sorts of negative effects: it makes them fat and antisocial. With respect to the latter charge, 80% of 15-24 year-olds are on Hyves and 40% are active on Facebook (there are no statistics available for younger groups). They are primarily involved in social activities on these sites. But we see plenty of offline social activity, too: for example, 40% of the youngsters are involved in volunteer work. Weight, however, does seem to be a growing problem. 14% of the youngsters are overweight, and 3% are actually obese. These percentages are on the rise.

Part 3 will be in tomorrow's edition of THE MORNING NEWS.

Tomorrow: Defining Generation Z



## NJ Gov Christie sacks top aide...

Cont. from pg 1

"I had no knowledge or involvement in this issue, in its planning or its execution," Christie told reporters. "I am embarrassed and humiliated by the conduct of some of the people on my team."

"I've terminated the employment of Bridget Kelly, effective immediately. I terminated her employment because she lied to me," he added, referring to his deputy chief of staff.

At times chastened, at times showing signs of his formerly bombastic style, Christie branded Kelly as "stupid" and "deceitful" for her role in an apparent act of petty political retribution.

With his office bracing for an investigation into the scandal by the US attorney in New Jersey, Christie fell back on the blunt stance that has won him admirers in US politics beyond his regional fiefdom.

"I have absolutely nothing to hide," he said, adding that he will instruct staff to "cooperate and answer questions."

Christie said he would go to Fort Lee to apologize "face to face" to its Democratic mayor Mark Sokolich, who apparently drew the wrath of Christie aides over his refusal to back the governor last year.

Christie said he felt "blind-sided" Wednesday when he learned of the communications between Kelly and a top Christie appointee to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, David Wildstein.

"Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," Kelly wrote to Wildstein, a high school acquaintance of Christie, on August 13.

"Got it," Wildstein replied.

The Fort Lee mayor was not advised the lanes would be closed for what was said to be part of a traffic study.

Then on September 10, Wildstein texted Kelly: "Is it wrong that I am smiling?"

"No," she answered.

"I feel badly about the kids," Wildstein replied, referring to students stuck for hours on buses in the snarled traffic.

"They are the children of Buono voters," she texted back, referring to Christie's Democratic rival in the governor's race, Barbara Buono.

Wildstein resigned from his Port Authority post in December, and Christie said he has not spoken with him since before November's election, when he was returned to of-

fice for a second term.

Christie also ordered his two-time campaign manager, Bill Stepien to step down from running to lead New Jersey's Republican Party.

He slammed his longtime aide's "callous indifference" for his tone in communications regarding the scandal that has come to be known as "Bridgegate."

The brouhaha has much of New Jersey fuming, and politics watchers wondering whether the Republican Party has lost a major contender for the White House in the post-Obama era.

Widely-read New York magazine writer Jonathan Chait went so far as to say the bridge-to-nowhere scandal "will probably destroy Christie's chances in 2016."

"I've been doing a lot of soul searching," Christie admitted.

But he reminded reporters that the election was still 34 months away, and he refused to say whether the scandal would affect his decision on a presidential run.

"I am not preoccupied with that job. I'm pre-occupied with this one."

Polls have repeatedly shown Christie as the 2016 Republican front-runner, often deadlocked with former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, the leading likely Democratic contender.

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## Indian diplomat leaves US as charges filed: prosecutor

NEW YORK (AFP) - An Indian diplomat, whose arrest in New York sparked a bitter row, left the United States Thursday as she was hit with charges over treatment of her servant, prosecutors said.

In a statement to a court, federal prosecutors unveiled that a grand jury had filed two counts of visa fraud and making false statements against diplomat Devyani Khobragade but said that she would not be present for trial.

"We understand that the defendant was very recently accorded diplomatic immunity status, and that she departed the United States today," Preet Bharara, the US attorney for the southern district of New York, told the judge.

Indian officials did not immediately comment but have previously said that Khobragade, the deputy consul gen-

eral in New York, was switching her accreditation to the United Nations which would allow her greater immunity.

Khobragade's arrest on December 12 spurred outrage in India, especially when it was revealed that she was strip-searched. The incident sent once warming relations between the world's two largest democracies into freefall.

India said that the arrest breached norms and retaliated by removing security barriers outside the US embassy first placed after the September 11, 2001 attacks. India also cut back perks for US diplomats, and US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz postponed a visit due next week to India.

In an indictment, the grand jury said Khobragade had a contract to pay her Indian ser-

vant 30,000 rupees (\$573) a month -- in line with wages in India, but well below the US minimum wage.

The indictment said Khobragade, on a temporary work visa form for the servant, listed a monthly pay of \$4,500. The indictment said the figure "did not match any actual income" -- not that of the servant or that of Khobragade, after some media reports indicated that prosecutors may have mistakenly looked at the diplomat's salary.

"Knowing that if the US authorities were told the truth about the actual terms of her employment agreement with the victim, Khobragade would not have been able to obtain a visa for the victim, Khobragade decided to make false statements to the US authorities," the indictment said.

## US lawmakers propose key step to boost trade deals

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lawmakers on Thursday proposed empowering US trade negotiators to push ahead major deals with Pacific Rim and European Union nations, but the move faces stiff opposition.

Three key lawmakers on trade policy introduced a bill to give President Barack Obama "fast-track authority," which would allow his team to negotiate agreements that Congress could approve or reject -- without making changes.

Supporters said the four-year extension of the powers, which last ended in 2007, is indispensable to speeding up trade negotiations.

The Obama administration has put a high priority on the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, seeing it as tying the United States more firmly to the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.



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## Six bodies found in Russia region near Olympic host Sochi

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia on Thursday launched a counter-terrorism operation after six bodies riddled with bullets were found in a region bordering that of Winter Olympic host city of Sochi, just weeks before the start of the Games.

Two districts in the southern Stavropol region were placed on high alert after the bodies were discovered in or close to parked cars, at least one of them apparently booby-trapped, in the rural area on Wednesday, the regional authorities said.

The Stavropol region borders the Krasnodar region where the Black Sea resort of Sochi is located.

Three of the male victims have been identified, with one working as a taxi driver, it said.

On Tuesday, the authorities launched the most sweeping security operation in Olympic history, a month before Russia's first post-Soviet Games kick off on February 7.

Russia particularly fears attacks by Islamist militants from the North Caucasus during the prestigious event, after two suicide bombings at a rail station and in a trolleybus last month in the southern city of Volgograd killed 34.

No one has claimed responsibility for that attack, but Russian media said the attackers came from the restive North Caucasus region of Dagestan.

Under Russia's counter-terror legislation, security officials have sweeping powers to temporarily evacuate residents, stop cars and pedestrians, search premises and monitor phone calls and emails.

As police examined one of the cars in Stavropol, which contained the body of a local resident who had been shot in the head, an improvised explosive device (IED) went off around 20 metres (65 feet) away, causing no injuries, the



Islamist leader Doku Umarov, seen in a picture taken from ceceonline.com, has vowed to stop the Olympics "using any methods that Allah allows us." His threats are being taken seriously.

regional interior ministry said in a statement.

Officers then defused another device nearby, Interfax news agency cited the FSB security agency as saying.

A security source told Interfax the two devices were packed with small metal elements such as screws to cause maximum injury and resembled those previously used by insurgents in southern Russia.

Two further bodies were found on the back seat and in the boot of Lada cars. Two more bodies were found in another parked car, while another lay nearby.

The Investigative Committee, which probes major criminal cases in Russia, opened probes into murder, arms trafficking and attempts on the lives of law enforcement officials.

It said Thursday that the series of murders, which took place within 24 hours, was to be treated as a single investigation.

A law enforcement source told Interfax that investigators were seeking three men from a village in the neighbouring Kabardino-Balkaria province.

In a recent attack in the Stavropol region, which is a popular tourist destination, three police officers were killed in a car bombing in a

historic spa resort, Pyatigorsk, in late December.

Islamist militants who are seeking their own state in the North Caucasus have vowed to strike civilians in an effort to undermine the Games and President Vladimir Putin, whose prestige is linked closely to the event's success.

Putin called last month's Volgograd bombings an "abomination" and assured the nation he would "fight against terrorists until their total destruction".

Security measures introduced around Sochi on Tuesday include special permits for private cars or lorries to enter the city or access Olympic venues.

In unprecedented measures, Russia is also deploying drones to monitor the region and soldiers in armoured vehicles will patrol the city during the Games, which run until February 23.

Beyond Sochi, Moscow's international airports have introduced a ban to last throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games on carrying any liquids in hand luggage.

The Russian Post Office has also introduced compulsory searches of any parcels sent to the Krasnodar region around Sochi.

## Fresh protests at Rio expulsions and demolitions



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Residents clashed with police in Rio de Janeiro Thursday in fresh protests at forced expulsions and demolitions in a slum near the famed Maracana stadium ahead of this year's World Cup.

Rio authorities stepped up security after the demolition of houses in the area Tuesday night sparked protests Wednesday at the Metro slum overlooking the Maracana.

The area is being cleared as Brazil looks to spruce up the district in time for the World Cup in June, while the Maracana will host the July 13 final.

Some 50 people -- including several members of the Black blocs anarchist group who fronted last year's violent protests in Brazil against corruption and the cost of the World Cup -- clashed with police.

Several threw stones and chunks of wood onto the nearby rail track, delaying

local overground metro trains.

In unrest overnight, police responded by firing rubber bullets.

Wednesday, local people had blocked access to traffic along the Radial Oeste thoroughfare which runs parallel to the Maracana, refurbished at a cost of more than 450 million dollars.

An NGO based in the district for 14 years demanded Brazilian judicial authorities intervene with one lawyer indicating Wednesday that 637 families had been forcibly moved since 2010.

With several dozen houses still standing, but empty with most of their former owners rehoused by the town hall authorities, some squatters have moved in.

Around 15 families are still in some 40 houses left standing -- but city authorities say the buildings will be torn down by the end of the month.

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## Canada reports first H5N1 bird flu death in North America

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada announced Wednesday the first H5N1 avian flu death in North America, of a patient who had just returned from China, and said it was urgently contacting airline passengers on the victim's flights.

It was also the first known instance of someone in North America contracting the illness, Canada Health Minister Rona Ambrose told a press conference, stressing it was an "isolated case."

The victim, who had recently returned from a trip to Beijing and had been otherwise completely healthy, was from the western plains province of Alberta, officials said, adding they were withholding the person's gender and other identifying details to protect the family's privacy.

The virus is contracted directly from birds, mainly poultry. The illness it causes in humans is severe and 60 percent of human cases are fatal.

The victim began to feel ill during the December 27 flight home to Alberta province, developing a fever and headache.

They were admitted to hospital on January 1 when the symptoms worsened suddenly and they began falling in and out of consciousness.

The patient died two days later.

The federal microbiology laboratory in Winnipeg, Manitoba, identified the H5N1 virus overnight from a specimen that had been taken while the victim was still alive.

Doctors said the deceased had traveled with two companions who are not sick but will be kept under observation as a precaution for 10 days -- double the usual time it takes for the virus to manifest itself.

"The patient's family is not showing any sign of illness. There is no evidence of human-to-human transmission on airplanes. All evidence indicates this is one isolated case in an individual who is infected following exposure in China," said Alberta Chief Medical Officer James Talbot.

Talbot said the victim had not traveled outside Beijing to the regions of China, and had not visited a farm, nor a public

market.

Canadian officials have notified China and the World Health Organization, but said they are at a loss to explain where or how the person caught the illness. Beijing had been believed to be free of the bird flu virus.

Authorities have also secured passenger lists and were contacting others on the same flights as the victim to reassure them of the "extremely low" chance of contagion.

The victim flew from Beijing to Vancouver on Air Canada flight 030 on December 27, then went on to Edmonton, Alberta, aboard Air Canada flight 244.

The person's final destination was not revealed, again for privacy reasons, but he or she was treated at an Edmonton hospital.

Other recent fatal cases have been reported in Indonesia and Cambodia, in November.

Avian flu viruses have been around for a long time in wild birds but do not generally cause disease in humans, though in rare cases they mutate and jump species.

Strains of the H5, H7 and H9 avian influenza subtypes have caused human infections, mainly following direct contact with infected poultry. None of the strains have yet mutated to become easily transmissible from person to person -- the epidemiologists' nightmare.

The H5N1 virus is the best-known of the strains, having caused 633 confirmed flu cases in humans in 15 countries from 2003 to July this year, of whom 377 died.



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## First cannabis-derived drug authorised for France

PARIS (AFP) - France has for the first time approved prescription use of a drug derived from cannabis -- a mouth spray used to treat multiple sclerosis (MS) symptoms, the government said Thursday.

The medicine, called Sativex, is already authorised in several European neighbours, but had remained off-limits in France due to a ban on any products derived from the marijuana plant.

The health ministry published a policy change last June, opening the door for medical use of the drug's active ingredients.

The first market authorisation was given on Wednesday by the National Agency for Drug Safety (ANSM), the ministry said.

Sativex, produced by the British firm GW Pharmaceuticals, has been approved for use in alleviating muscle stiffness and spasms from MS.

"The market authorisation is an interim step" before the drug becomes available from

pharmacies, but on prescription only, said a ministry statement.

The spray's main active ingredients are delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD).

ANSM official Nathalie Richard said Sativex was not recommended for breastfeeding or pregnant women or people with a history of psychosis.

Medical cannabis use is already a reality in countries like the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany and Britain, Canada, Australia and some American states.

In Canada, Sativex is also used to alleviate pain associated with cancer.

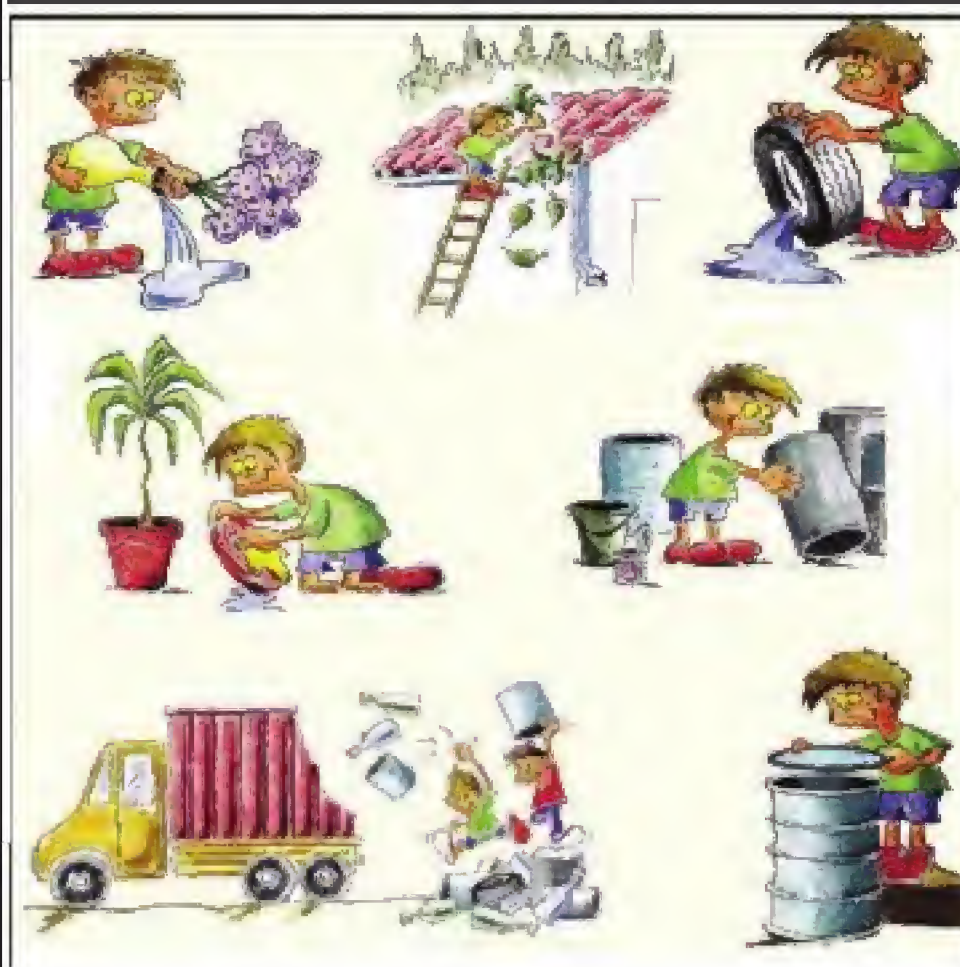
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Wednesday he will authorise medical marijuana use, making his the 21st US state to do so.

## Petition launched to take pregnant Texas woman off ventilator



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Abortion rights activists launched a petition Wednesday to take a pregnant American woman declared brain dead off life support in Texas, as requested by her family. The body of Marlise Munoz, 33, has been maintained with technology for more than a month because of her pregnancy. She had collapsed at her home in late November due to a possible pulmonary embolism as she got up to take care of her first-born son who is now 15 months old. She had told her husband and parents that she never wanted to be kept alive by a machine should tragedy strike, but a law in conservative Texas is stopping them from carrying out her wishes because she is pregnant. The case is particularly sensitive because it involves several hot-button issues: abortion, euthanasia and interpretation of the law. Her husband Erick told local ABC television affiliate WFAA that he was worried about the state of the fetus, not knowing how long it had been deprived of oxygen before his wife was discovered after her collapse. The fetus has not yet reached the point of viability outside the womb, usually defined as at least 23 weeks' gestation.

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## Controversial French comic wins first round of tour battle



NANTES (AFP) - Dieudonne, a controversial comic branded an anti-Semitic "pedlar of hate" by the French government, on Thursday won the first round of a legal battle to start a nationwide tour.

A judge in Nantes ordered local authorities to lift a ban that would have prevented Dieudonne, who has been repeatedly convicted under anti-racism legislation, from performing in front of more than 5,000 people in the western city's Zenith Theatre on Thursday evening.

The ruling represented a defeat for France's Socialist government, which this week issued instructions to local councils authorising them to ban the comedian's shows.

Lawyers for the government had argued that the fundamentally racist nature of the comedian's act meant it could not be afforded protection under France's constitutional provisions on freedom of speech.

But their arguments were rejected by Judge Jean-Francois Molla after a two-hour hearing.

"The essential aim of the show cannot be considered as being an attempt to violate human dignity," the judge said in a ruling that will have implications for other cities, including Tours and Bordeaux, which have announced bans on Dieudonne performing in their theatres.

The judge also rejected ar-

guments that the Nantes performance should be banned on public order grounds.

He said there was no evidence that any protests could not be contained by the local police and that the risk involved "cannot justify as radical a measure as banning the show".

Roger Cukierman, the head of French Jewish organisation CRIF, called the court's decision "lamentable," while the president of the World Jewish Congress urged the government to keep battling.

"France has no choice but to confront this preacher of hate head on," Ronald Lauder said in a statement.

He added: "Unfortunately, Dieudonne has attracted a considerable following among young people. His aggressive, undisguised hatred for Jews and for Israel manifests itself in every one of his shows, and attempts to stop that ought to be supported by all democratic forces."

The French comedian is due to take his one-man show on a nationwide tour which is scheduled to run until June and will include dates in neighbouring Belgium and Switzerland.

Preview performances of The Wall in Paris included a sketch in which the comedian mimed urinating against a wall. He then reveals that it was the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.



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## Venezuela arrests seven over beauty queen's killing

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan police have arrested seven people including a woman and two teenagers over the brutal double murder of a beauty queen turned soap star and her British-born partner, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The fatal shooting of former Miss Venezuela Monica Spear, an actress who lived and worked in the United States, during a vacation to her home country caused shock and revulsion, and triggered a government crisis meeting.

Spear, 29, and Thomas Henry Berry, 39, were shot dead after their car broke down on a highway in northwestern Venezuela late Monday. Their five-year-old daughter was wounded in what appears to have been an armed robbery.

The family had locked themselves in the car in a frantic attempt to survive, but the armed men approached and opened fire multiple times. Spear was killed with a single shot.

Seven people have been arrested for "presumed connection" to the attack, prosecutors said. The four men, one woman and two teenagers were found in possession of some of the family's belongings.

It was previously announced that five people had been detained over the killings in the state of Carabobo that prompted President Nicolas



Maduro to vow to deal with the perpetrators with an "iron hand."

"No one can stand by with arms crossed, murders, and violent crime, and the massacre of this young Venezuelan woman and her husband is a blow to all of us," said Maduro, who held a meeting of mayors and governors to draw up an emergency anti-crime plan after the killings, the latest in a violent crime epidemic in Venezuela.

"We all have to take responsibility; and I take mine," the president said on announcing that a national crime-policy panel would draw up a plan within a month.

The deaths shone a light on the country's soaring crime, which has kept many Venezuelans from venturing out at night and prompted others to buy armored cars or boost security in their homes.

Spear and Berry, who ran an adventure travel company in Venezuela, married in 2008 and later split up but it was unclear whether they legally separated.

"She was hit by a single shot in the right arm that went through her body," Spear's manager, Katty Pulido, told CNN Espanol, noting that Berry had suffered three bullet wounds.

The family was driving on a highway when their car hit a blunt object that had been placed on the road, forcing them to pull over, said forensic police director Jose Gregorio Sierralta.

Spear waved down a tow truck, which stopped to help, but as the two truck workers operated the crane, five armed men emerged on the road.

The truck's operators fled to a police station about 1.5 kilometers (one mile) away.



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## Apple, Samsung agree to mediation in US patent battle



NEW YORK (AFP) - The chief executives of Apple and Samsung have agreed to attend a mediation session by mid-February to discuss their legal battle over smartphone patents, court documents showed Wednesday.

Senior legal executives from both companies met on Monday to "discuss settlement opportunities," read a filing to the US District Court in San Jose that is handling the patent case.

It said Apple CEO Tim Cook and his Samsung counterpart Kwon Oh-Hyun would attend the session to be overseen by a jointly chosen mediator on or before February 19, along with three to four in-house attorneys each. No outside lawyers will be allowed.

This is not the first time for Apple and Samsung to seek a settlement out of court. But a court-imposed mediation session in May 2012 failed to produce results.

The two electronics giants are currently set to battle it out in court in March.

US District Judge Lucy Koh had asked that the two firms make a mediation proposal before the March trial.

Samsung, the world's biggest maker of smartphones, has been ordered to pay Apple more than \$900 million after a retrial on some of the issues in the case.

But the case, one of several being played out in courts and administrative agencies around the world, has not dented sales of Samsung, which has vaulted ahead of Apple in many markets on a global scale.

And last month, Apple asked the court to bar US sales of Samsung smartphones and tablet computers in the blockbuster patent case.

## Ice rescue sparks Antarctic tourism debate

WELLINGTON (AFP) - The challenging rescue operation launched after a Russian ship became trapped in Antarctic pack ice last month shows the inherent risks facing the frozen continent's burgeoning tourist industry, experts say.

Antarctica represents one of the last frontiers for adventurous travellers, an icy wonderland of glaciers, emperor penguins and seemingly endless white expanses.

But, as those aboard the Akademik Shokalskiy found out, blizzards, icebergs and treacherous seas are also a fact of life at one of the most remote locations on Earth, where help is often thousands of kilometres (miles) away.

"It does indeed serve as a reminder that it's an extreme environment that we're dealing with, whether it's scientific expeditions going down there or tourism cruises," Daniela



This image taken by expedition doctor Andrew Peacock of [www.footloosefotography.com](http://www.footloosefotography.com) on January 2, 2014 shows passengers on the MV Akademik Shokalskiy watching as a helicopter from the nearby Chinese icebreaker Xue Long picks up pass

Liggett, a specialist in Antarctic tourism regulation at New Zealand's Canterbury University, told AFP.

Tourist numbers in Antarctica have grown from less than 5,000 in 1990 to about 35,000 a year, according to industry

figures. Most travel by sea, some paying in excess of \$20,000 for a luxury cabin in the peak period from November to March.

There is also a healthy market for sightseeing flights, despite the loss of an Air New

Zealand DC-10 in 1979 which crashed into Mount Erebus, killing all 257 on board.

The first recorded tourist ship was an Argentine vessel, Les Eclaireurs, that made the voyage with 100 paying passengers in 1958.

Since then, concerns have centred on tourists' potential impact on the untamed wilderness and the difficulty rescuers would face reaching a ship if it hit serious trouble in the freezing waters.

With conventional rescue services so far away, the task of helping stricken vessels often falls to the scientific missions, disrupting their carefully planned research programmes.

French Polar Institute director Yves Frenot was furious last week that French, Chinese and Australian ships in Antarctica were diverted from scientific work for the Shokalskiy rescue.

"There's no reason to place Antarctica off-limits and to keep it just for scientists, but this tourism has to be monitored and regulated so that operators can be sure of getting help if need be," he told AFP.

The headaches posed by Antarctic rescue were demonstrated when, after the Shokalskiy became mired in the ice on December 24, the Chinese icebreaker Xue Long became trapped itself while trying to help.


The two ships only managed to free themselves on Tuesday, by which time yet another vessel, the US Coast Guard's Polar Star, was steaming to their aid from Sydney.

Liggett said Shokalskiy travelled into an area not normally frequented by tourist or scientific ships, which contributed to it becoming trapped.



Parts of the Niagara Falls, located between the US and Canada, have frozen because of the Arctic chill that's gripped North America this week.





**Daily Exchange Rates**

Current as of: 01/09/2014

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.66
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.98
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	197.40
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	244.87
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	27.70
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	33.06
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	29.38
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	171.34

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## Mexico's president signs banking reform into law

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto on Thursday signed into law a banking overhaul designed to increase lending and boost growth in Latin America's second biggest economy.

The legislation is among a series of major structural reforms that Peña Nieto has pushed through Congress since taking office in December 2012.

"From 2014, Mexico will count on a financial system that, in addition to being more solid and robust, will turn responsible lending into a growth engine," Peña Nieto said.

The reform aims to increase competition between banks and

encourage them to improve access to credit and provide cheaper rates in a nation with the lowest lending record in Latin America.

Credit to the private sector is equivalent to 26 percent of Mexico's gross domestic product, below the Latin American average of more than 50 percent.

Finance Minister Luis Videgaray said the reform will add 0.5 percentage points to economic growth.

Mexico's Congress has now approved reforms of the education system, the telecommunications sector, tax collection and a historic opening of the state-controlled energy industry.

## Belgium names woman to head telecoms giant

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Dominique Leroy was named Thursday the first woman to run a Belgian state-owned company, taking over at telecoms giant Belgacom after its previous head fell out with the government.

Leroy, 50, married with

two children, worked for 24 years at Anglo-Dutch food and household products group Unilever before joining Belgacom in 2011 where she manages the retail clients division.

"The cabinet has decided to name Dominique Leroy," the government said, wishing her "every success."

Former head Didier Belens was sacked in November after a series of controversial statements, culminating in an outburst in which he called the government the "worst shareholder" he had ever had at a company.

He was paid an annual salary of 2.4 million euros (\$3.3 million) but Leroy will not get more than 650,000 euros a year after the government changed public sector pay scales as part of a wider belt-tightening exercise.

## Banking group sees limited future for Bitcoin

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The online currency Bitcoin has shown unexpected success but its future as a broadly accepted exchange medium is limited, according to a report by a global banking group Thursday.

The report by the International Institute of Finance, which represents more than 450 banks and financial institutions, said more regulation of Bitcoin exchanges and transactions could strengthen its legitimacy among consumers and ease regulators' doubts about it.

But for the moment, the IIF report said, Bitcoin faces significant resistance in countries like China. And because most of the market is dominated by speculators rather than users, Bitcoin's value in other currencies is particularly volatile.

In a market worth around \$12 billion, the IIF said, "It is estimated that 50 to upwards of 90 percent of Bitcoin owners are speculators -- thereby contributing to the substantial price fluctuations seen recently."

It pointed to the sharp fall of Bitcoin from a high of \$1,240 to \$576 in just three days in December after China banned its financial institutions from using the currency.

Since then Bitcoin has rebounded, topping \$1,000 earlier this week before falling to \$915 on Thursday.

"If it persists, this remarkably high volatility will compromise Bitcoin's capacity to function as a medium of exchange, as it deters most large companies from accepting the

digital currency as a form of payment," the IIF report said.

Unlike other currencies, Bitcoin does not have the backing of a central bank or government. Instead, the units are generated by a complex computer algorithm designed by one or more anonymous people in 2009.

Because of that, said the report, its functionality and ultimate success "is determined by programmers and their goodwill is taken for granted."

Thus the IIF characterized Bitcoin as effectively a "fiduciary currency" with no intrinsic value of its own and dependent on trust that it can be exchanged for a more common currency like the dollar. That makes it "inherently fragile," the IIF said.

## Macy's to cut 2,500 jobs in reorganization

NEW YORK (AFP) - US department store giant Macy's said Wednesday it will eliminate 2,500 jobs as a cost-cutting move, equivalent to about 1.4 percent of its workforce.

The move is part of an initiative to "sustain profitable sales growth in the years ahead," Macy's said in a statement after the close of the market.

Macy's expects to save annually \$100 million through the moves starting in 2014, and it will take \$120-\$135 million in cost-cutting charges.

Macy's employs about 175,000.

Macy's plans to close five stores, but it also plans to open five new Macy's stores and three new stores of its upscale Bloomingdale's chain.

Macy's operates about 840 department stores in the US and generated sales of \$27.7 billion in 2012.

Separately, Macy's said its comparable sales rose by 3.6 percent in the key November/December holiday shopping period. The holiday shopping season was "successful" for the company, Lundgren said.

The company confirmed its 2013 earnings forecast and said 2014 earnings would be \$4.40-\$4.50 per share, above the \$4.32 seen by analysts.

## Opposition takes Portugal austerity measures to court

LISBON (AFP) - Portugal's main opposition party said Thursday it has challenged several austerity measures before the country's constitutional court, which has tended to strike down cuts.

The head of the Socialist Party's parliamentary group said it disputed cuts salaries and retirement benefits to state workers, means-testing of widow benefits, and cuts to unemployment and sickness benefits in the 2014 budget.

The court last December already blocked a provision in the 2014 budget that would have cut up to 10 percent from civil service pensions over 600 euros (\$800) per month, forcing the government to search for other ways to make the 388 million euros in expected savings from the measure.

The government announced Thursday it would apply a special temporary tax to pensions above 1,000 euros to make up part of the shortfall as it seeks to lower the public deficit this year to 4.0 percent of GDP.

The constitutional court has made a series of rulings blocking austerity measures by the government, including plans to trim the civil service, causing a political crisis that nearly brought down the government which is implementing reforms and balancing public finances under Portugal's 78-billion-euro EU-IMF bailout.

The three-year rescue programme ends in May and Portugal tested Thursday whether it will be able to return to the markets with a successful sale of 3.25 billion euros in five-year bonds.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

Y	E	A	R	S	C	A	R
F	E	N	C	E	S	H	U
E	S	T	E	E	M	A	B
A	S	I	D	O	N	K	E
S	I	T	G	E	E		
T	R	Y	S	T	W	R	I
		P	E	Z	N	E	O
R	E	M	O	D	E	L	H
O	M	A	R	S	E	S	A
O	M	I	T	T	A	L	L
M	Y	M	Y	D	Y	E	D



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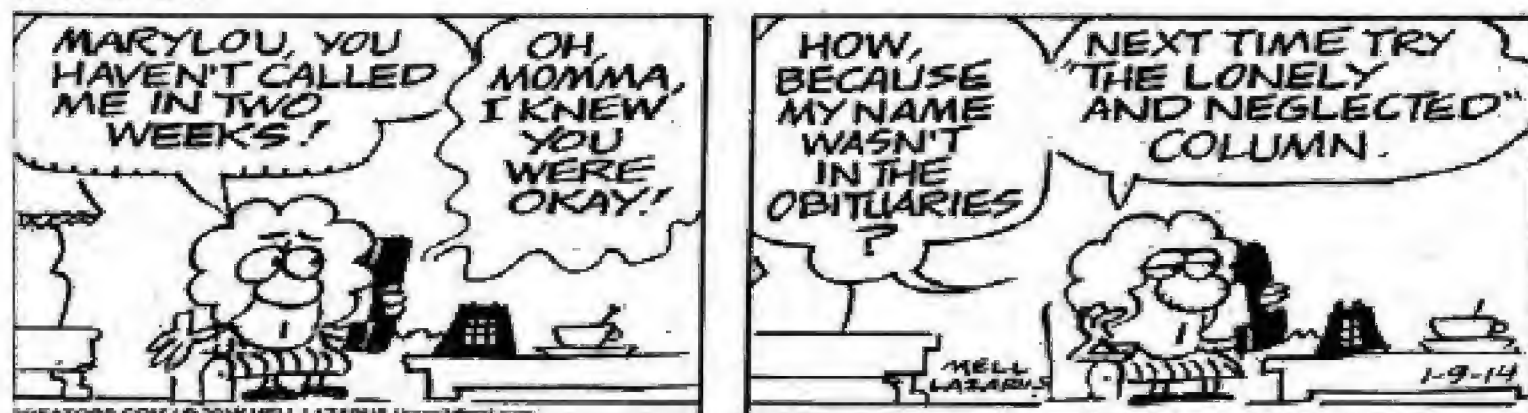


## COMICS

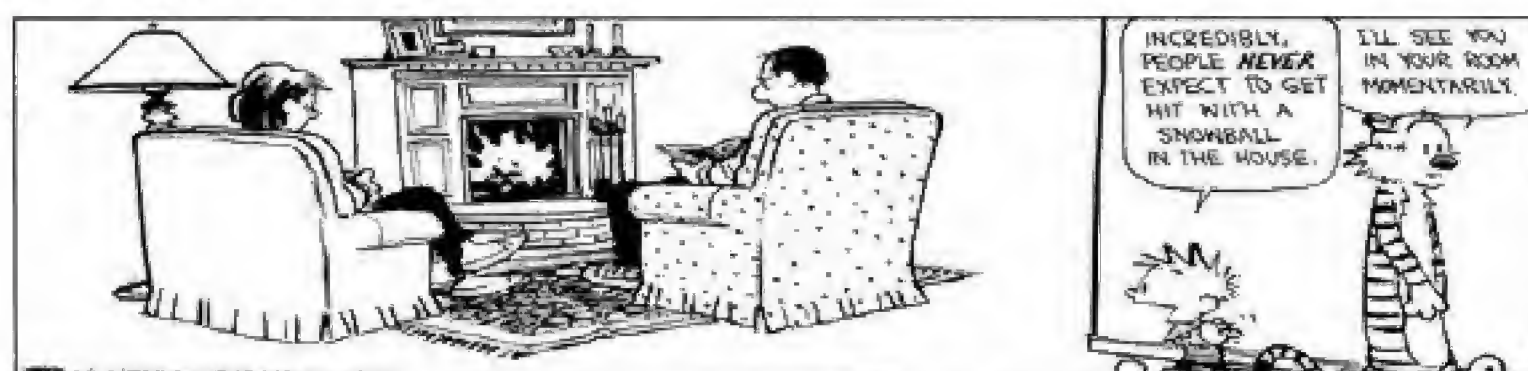
## PICKLES



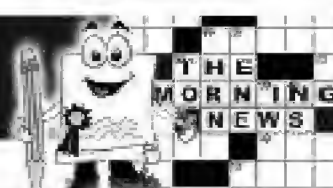
## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## ACROSS

- 1 Doctors' gp.  
4 Burn with steam  
9 Dover's state (abbr.)  
10 Aromatic trees of Lebanon  
12 Lifeguard's concern  
13 Sub, in Philly  
14 Oddball  
16 Tuna —  
17 Sale attended

- by bidders  
19 "Kid-napped" author's initials.  
20 — king (2 wds.)  
21 Circle segment  
24 Pasternak hero  
29 Feather neck-pieces  
31 Dickens hero  
32 Government depart-

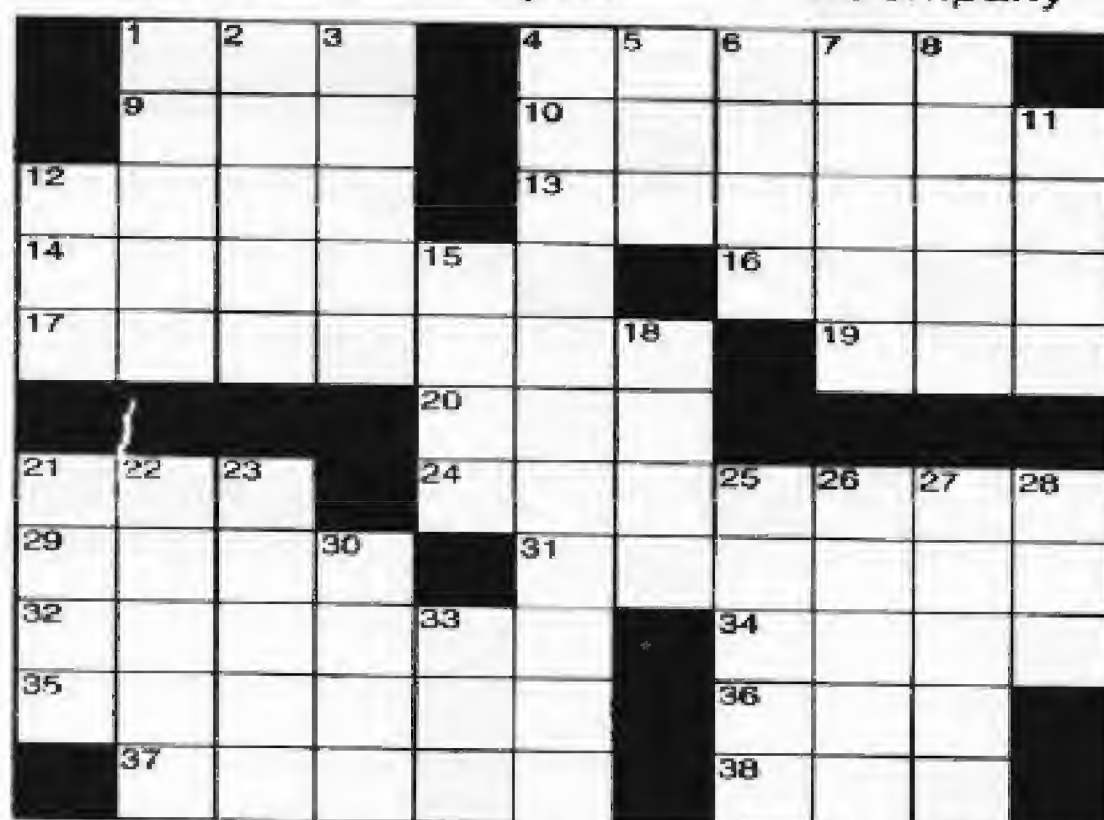
- ment  
34 Actress Wither-spoon  
35 Vexes  
36 Actress Delaney  
37 Car company  
38 What a bouncer checks

## DOWN

- 1 Good-bye (Fr.)  
2 Army doc  
3 Cautious  
4 Learning locale  
5 Company

- exec (abbr.)  
6 First man  
7 Type of beer  
8 Dentist's equipment  
11 Gels  
12 Former airline  
15 Actress Cameron  
18 Polish target  
21 Israel's Eban  
22 Boxing period  
23 Ship's freight  
25 Lawrence of "Mama's Family"  
26 Duck  
27 These cause colds  
28 "...a man

- mouse?" (2 wds.)  
30 Burpee product  
33 La Plata's locale (abbr.)



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CAS MARIE  
Alzheimer's Day  
Care Center  
Tel: 5696910

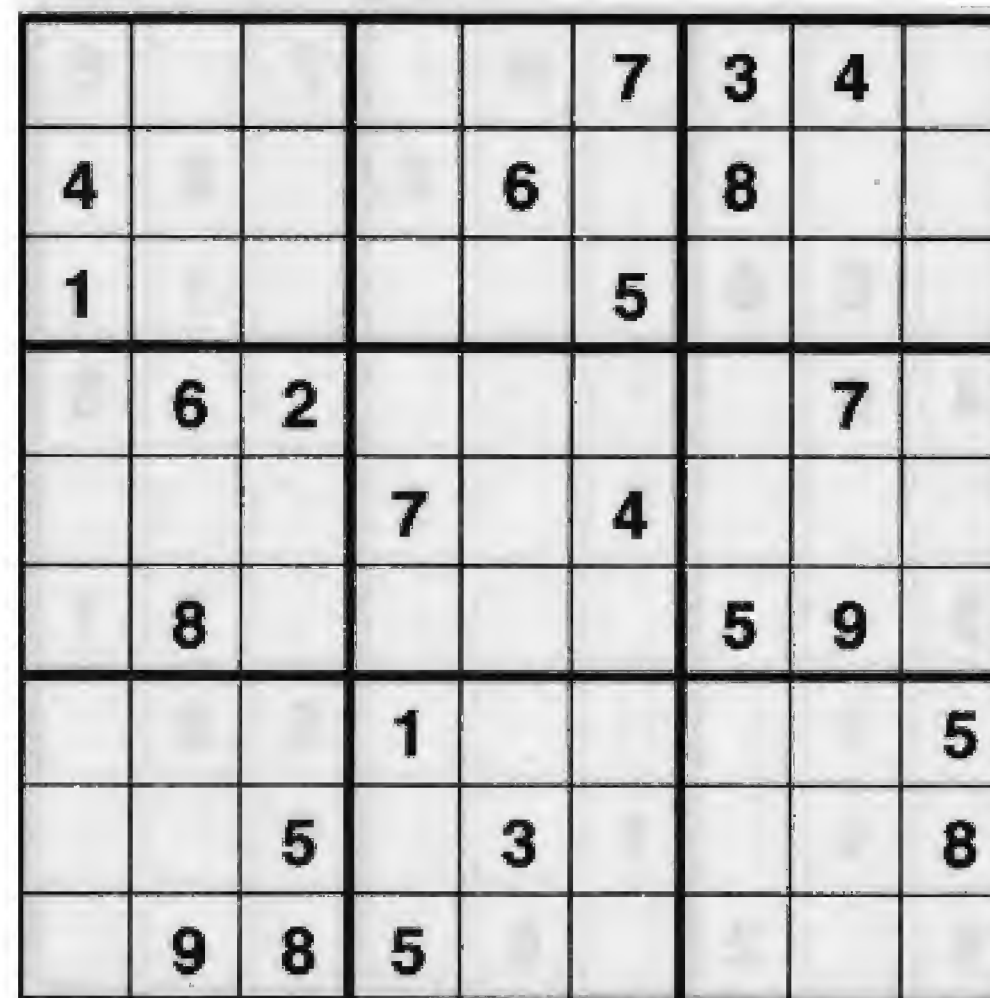
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TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
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In Oranjestad:  
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
582-5447  
In San Nicolas  
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602  
professional taxi services  
Tel. 588-0035

Al Anon Meetings  
Mondays 6-7pm  
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord  
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

# Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	1	3	9	2	5	8	6	4
8	9	4	6	7	5	1	2	3
5	6	8	2	1	2	3	9	7
6	8	9	2	1	9	7	8	2
9	8	2	7	5	2	1	6	6
7	2	1	5	8	6	2	9	5
6	3	9	5	7	9	6	2	1
2	5	8	1	9	6	6	2	7
1	7	6	2	6	2	8	9	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



**Delicious Breakfast**

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at

8am, patrons can now order 2 eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are



ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to

watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

**5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.**

**Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches!** Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the least is the future value of the

investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

**Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.**



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## Rallying: Roma, Coma thrive in Dakar's Argentine heat

SAN MIGUEL DE TUCUMAN (AFP) - Spanish driver Nani Roma reclaimed the Dakar Rally lead Thursday as compatriot Marc Coma soared to the top of the motorcycling standings after a brutal fifth stage which saw temperatures nudge the 40-degree mark.

Roma, behind the wheel of a Mini, had led after three stages and he reasserted his authority on the gruelling 912km run from Chilceto to San Miguel de Tucuman.

Roma clocked 4hr 27min 01sec on the 527km timed section of the stage with South Africa's Giniel De Villiers, in a Toyota, and America's Robby Gordon, driving a Hummer, in



Portuguese Paulo Goncalves watches his Honda on fire during the Stage 5 on Thursday.

third place.

In the overall standings, he now has a lead of 26min 28sec on Qatar's 2011 champion, and

Mini teammate, Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar.

Carlos Sainz, the 2010 champion who had led overnight, slumped to sixth overall, almost an hour behind fellow Mini driver Roma, after a nightmare day where the Spanish veteran endured a number of navigational errors.

The motorcycling section of the race was shortened as the heat was deemed to be close to danger levels for the riders.

Former champion Coma, on a KTM, was declared the stage winner in a time of 3hr 02min 08sec, with fellow Spaniard Jordi Viladoms in second spot and Kuba Przygonski of Poland taking third.

"To get to the end of the stage, I rode for 10 km lost in a river bed. In general, it's tough for everyone. For the race lead, you can lose lots of time at any moment. When you open the way, it's a bit like playing Russian roulette," said Coma.

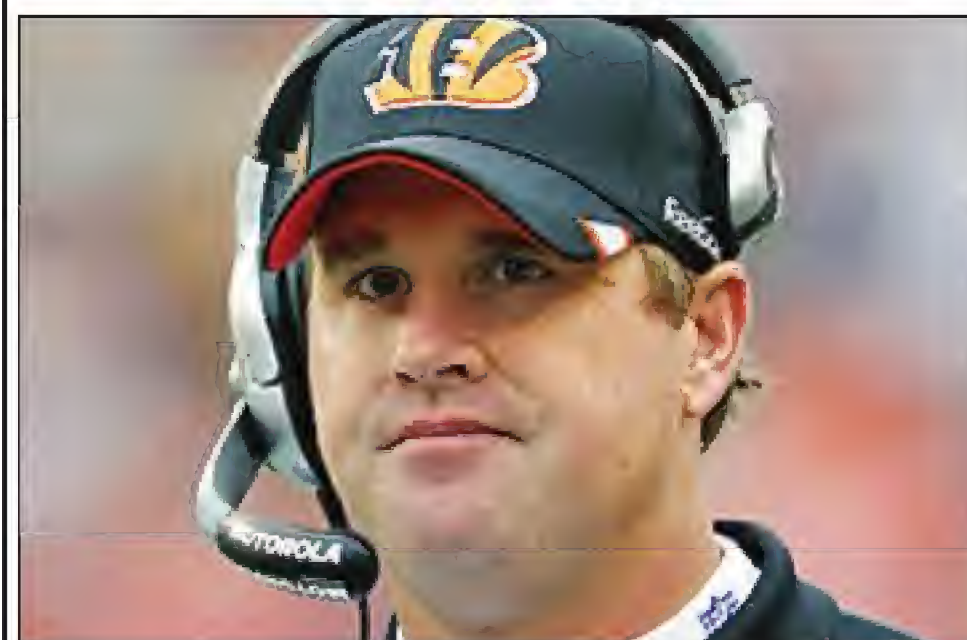
In the overall standings, Coma has a 41min 10sec lead on Honda's Joan Barreda, the previous leader.

## Yaya Toure named African Footballer of Year



LAGOS (AFP) - Manchester City star Yaya Toure on Thursday won a third straight African Footballer of the year award. The 31-year-old Ivory Coast international also won in 2011 and 2012. Nigeria's John Obi Mikel was second and Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast finished third. Egyptian legend Mohamed Aboutrika beat compatriot Ahmed Fathy and Sunday Mba from Nigeria to win the best Player based in Africa. It was a fitting send-off gift for the 35-year-old Al Ahly star, who has announced his retirement from the game. Toure, 30, may not have won a major trophy for club and country last year but his class has shone through at both domestic level and for the Elephants of Ivory Coast. His form led to him being the only African to be included on the 23-man shortlist for Fifa's World Player of the Year.

## BRIEFS:



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Jay Gruden, who spent the past three years as offensive coordinator of the Cincinnati Bengals, was named Thursday as the new coach of the National Football League's Washington Redskins. Gruden replaced Mike Shanahan, who was fired one day after the Redskins completed a disastrous 3-13 season, dropping their final eight games of the campaign. Before joining the Bengals in 2011, Gruden spent 2002-2008 as an assistant coach with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers under his brother, Jon Gruden, then served stints as a head coach with the developmental United Football League's Florida Tuskers and the Arena Football League's Orlando Predators, who won two crowns in the indoor gridiron circuit.



MADRID (AFP) - (AFP) - Lionel Messi scored twice on his first appearance in 59 days as Barcelona cruised towards the quarter-finals of the Copa del Rey with a 4-0 win over Getafe in the first leg of their last 16 tie. The four-time World Player of the Year replaced Andres Iniesta after 63 minutes with Barcelona leading 2-0 thanks to a Cesc Fabregas double. Messi then put the tie to bed a minute from time when he slotted home a loose ball inside the area. And he added his 16th goal of the season with a stunning run and finish to round off the scoring in stoppage time.



TOKYO (AFP) - Star Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka is heading to the United States to kick off negotiations with Major League Baseball clubs over an expected high-profile transfer, media reported on Thursday. It will be the 25-year-old's first official contact with US teams looking to sign him, since his team Rakuten Eagles agreed a 30-day window for transfer bids in December. Among teams expected to take an interest are the New York Yankees, the Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Angels, Chicago Cubs and Arizona Diamondbacks, Jiji Press and other media said. The Sports Hochi said Tanaka left Narita airport on Wednesday and is expected to pick a final candidate team as early as January 17.





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## NBA: Parker powers Spurs over Mavs

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - The San Antonio Spurs led wire-to-wire by cruising to a 112-90 victory over the Dallas Mavericks behind a 25-point performance from Tony Parker on Wednesday.

Parker, of France, also finished with seven assists and Marco Belinelli came off the bench to score 17 points for the Spurs who snapped the Mavericks' four game National Basketball Association win streak.

Tim Duncan added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Spurs who held Germany's Dirk Nowitzki to eight points on three-of-14 shooting.

Monta Ellis had a solid game with 21 points and four assists.

The Spurs had to play without star Manu Ginobili, who skipped the contest due to a

hamstring injury.

Dallas got to the free throw line just eight times while San Antonio shot an impressive 23-of-26 from the foul line.

The Spurs started quickly, building a 12-point lead in the first quarter and cruising into halftime on top, 45-38.

Parker and Duncan then went to work. They scored on the opening five possessions of the third quarter to extend San

Antonio's lead to 55-42.

A 15-2 run near the end of the third helped seal the Mavs' fate. Parker opened the run with a three-point play and Belinelli had seven points during it, comprising a three-pointer, a drive to the rim and two free throws to give the hosts a commanding 80-59 lead in the closing seconds.

The Spurs led by as much as 29 in the final quarter.

## NBA: Curry passes Paul in voting for All-Star starting spot

NEW YORK (AFP) - Golden State guard Stephen Curry moved ahead of Los Angeles Clippers star Chris Paul in NBA All-Star vote totals released on Thursday, the final update before balloting closes January 20.

Starters will be announced on January 23 for the 63rd NBA All-Star Game, which will be staged February 16 at New Orleans.

The NBA announced that LeBron James and Kevin Durant remain the top vote-getters, with Miami star James pacing the Eastern Conference at 1,076,063 and Durant atop the Western Conference with 1,054,209.

But the only change in a projected starting spot from December came in the Western Conference backcourt, where Curry had trailed Paul for the last starting berth by 51,949 votes on December 26 but now leads him 677,372 to 651,073.

Los Angeles Lakers star guard Kobe Bryant leads West guard voting with 844,538 while Asian-American star Jeremy Lin of Houston is fourth on the West guard list at 471,980.

The West forwards are led by Durant, Houston's Dwight Howard on 509,116 and the Clippers' Blake Griffin on 500,964 with Minnesota's Kevin Love, the NBA's leading rebounder, a close fourth at 483,031.

In the East, James sets the pace among forwards with Indiana's Paul George second on 399,671 and New York's Carmelo Anthony third at 702,869. Roy Hibbert of Indiana is a distant fourth at 385,964.

Among Eastern guards, Miami's Dwyane Wade leads with 713,109 votes and Australian-American Kyrie Irving is second on 652,522. Injured Chicago star Derrick Rose is third on 323,099.

## Ronaldinho extends deal with Atletico Mineiro

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Former World Player of the Year Ronaldinho has signed an extension to his contract with Atletico Mineiro, the Brazilian side's president announced on Thursday. The 33-year-old Ronaldinho, a World Cup winner with Brazil in 2002 and a winner of the Copa Libertadores with

Atletico last year, was due to be a free agent at the end of this year and had been a target for Turkish side Beşiktaş. Brazilian press reports claimed that the Istanbul outfit had offered the former Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona and AC Milan player an annual salary of 6 million euros (\$8.2m) to sign for them. Ronaldinho moved to Atletico, from the city of Belo Horizonte, from Flamengo in June 2012, and has scored 35 goals in 70 games for them. He was part of the side that finished third at the Club World Cup in Morocco in December.

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## New Jiu Jitsu School on Aruba by Furacao Machado



ORANJESTAD - Just recently the well known trainer of martial arts, Furacao Machado opened his own school of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and MMA in Aruba. His new location is situated in the X-treme Training Club and is on the Steenweg in Oranjestad next to Lady's Choice. Furacao is a well known athlete in Aruba. He competed in various MMA events in Aruba as well as internationally. He has much experience in the martial arts sport, especially with Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. His new school is affiliated with two big schools in Brazil. These are Top Brothers International and Honorio Jagunco. There are various athletes that have begun training with Machado this year. The school is growing steadily.

For more information, please call 297-748-1840, or email [brazilianjiujitsuaruba@gmail.com](mailto:brazilianjiujitsuaruba@gmail.com) or like them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/brazilianjiujitsuaruba](http://www.facebook.com/brazilianjiujitsuaruba).

## MOKO RESIDENCE 2 In Front of Arawa Park

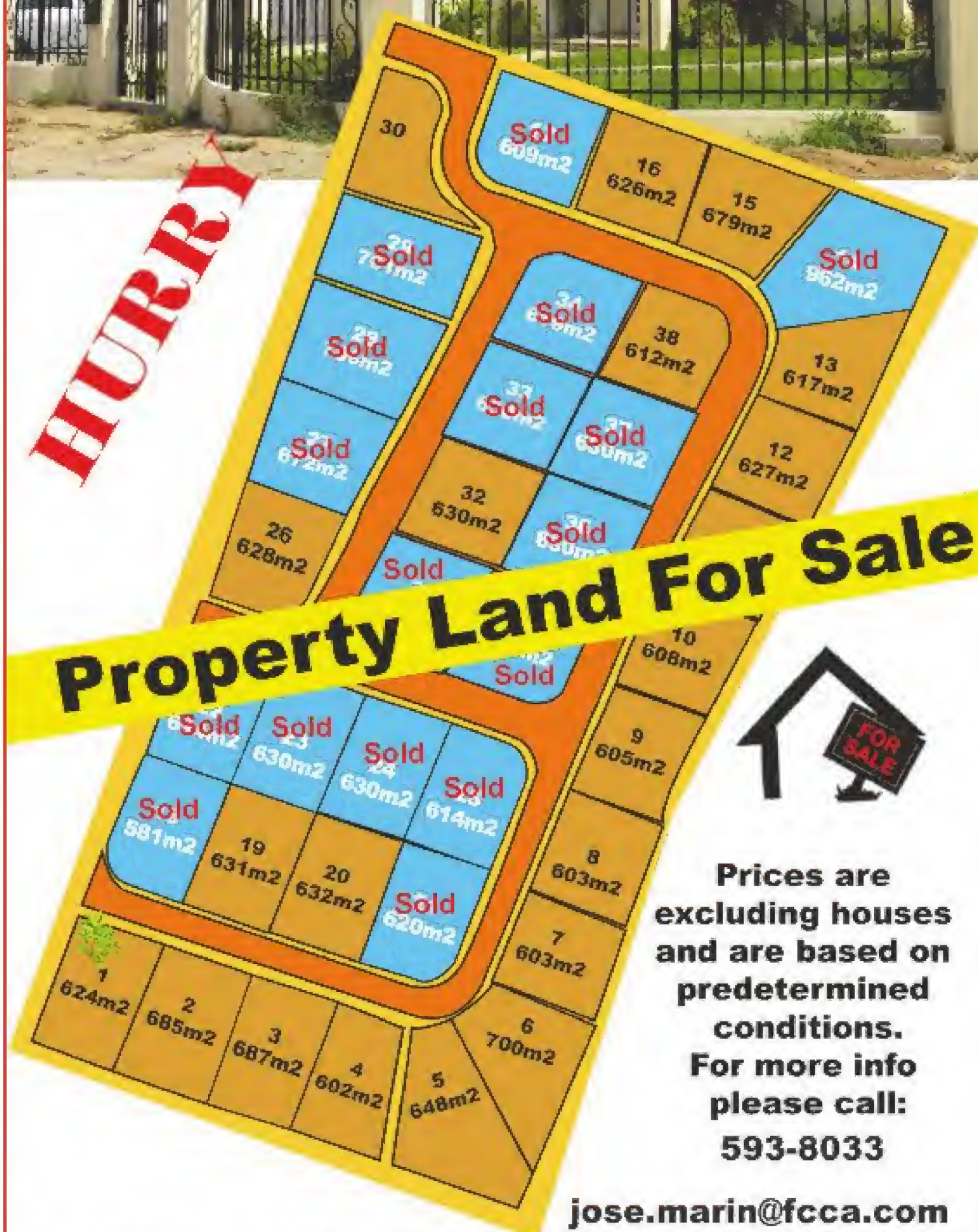


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### Can't get Messi? Sign his cousins instead

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - World footballer of the year Lionel Messi may be out of reach for Bahia, but the Brazilian top-flight side have signed two of his cousins instead. On Thursday, the club from Salvador de Bahia paraded new recruits, Argentine brothers Maxi and Emanuel Biancucchi, their website carrying a picture of the duo standing alongside Messi. Midfielder Emanuel, 25, spent last season with Paraguayan club Olimpia, with whom he reached the final of the Libertadores Cup, losing to Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro. His elder brother Maxi, 29, has signed a three-year contract and should have few problems adapting to his new surroundings having previously played for Bahia's local rivals Vitoria, with whom he netted a total of 17 goals last year. He has also played for Rio de Janeiro giants Flamengo, as well as enjoying spells in Paraguay and Mexico.